

CLAIMS

1 – 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A can trimmer apparatus comprising:
a housing adapted for use in a can production line;
two blades that are each mounted on a rotatable shaft that extends from the housing; and
an adjustment mechanism to adjust a gap between the blades through axial motion of at
least one of the rotatable shafts, wherein the adjustment mechanism is accessible from the
exterior of the trimmer apparatus.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim [[9]] 8 further comprising a locking mechanism to substantially maintain the position of ~~the second~~ one of the rotatable shafts once the gap is adjusted.

11. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the gap is about 8-25% of the thickness of the metal of a can.

12-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 8 further comprising a sealed gear housing.

15. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the housing is sealed by o-rings.

16. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 8 further comprising spur gears.

17. (Currently Amended) A can trimmer apparatus comprising:

a housing adapted for use in a can production line;
a first blade mounted on a first shaft that extends from the housing; and
a second blade mounted on a second shaft extends from the housing, wherein the first and second shafts are about the same mass; and
means for adjusting a gap between the first and second blade through axial motion of at least one of the first and second shafts.

18. (Currently Amended) The can trimmer apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:
~~an adjustment mechanism to adjust a gap between the first and second blades, wherein adjustment of the gap is in a direction perpendicular to the direction of movement between the open and closed positions; and~~
a motion translator to translate the direction of motion of the second blade between the open and closed positions with substantially no motion in the direction of the gap.

19. (Original) The can trimmer of claim 18 further comprising a sealed gear housing.

20. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the gap is about 8-25% of the thickness of the metal of a can.

21. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the gap is about 8-15% of the thickness of the metal of a can.

22. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the gap is about 8-10% of the thickness of the metal of a can.

23. (Original) The can trimmer of claim 18 wherein the adjustment mechanism is accessible from the exterior of the apparatus.

24. (Original) The can trimmer of Claim 23 wherein the adjustment mechanism comprises:

an adjustment screw;
an adjustment nut; and
a locking mechanism.

25. (Original) A can trimmer apparatus comprising a housing and a power connection accessible from the exterior of the housing, wherein said power connection is replaceable without opening the housing.

26. (Original) The can trimmer of claim 25 wherein the power connection is a tang.